

"You wouldn't leave me all alone in the car, would you?"



Paper or Plastic? Bring Your Own Bag!

Bring Your Own Bag the next time you shop instead of using disposable plastic bags or paper bags. Reusable bags are convenient, durable, inexpensive and better for the planet.

Bringing your own shopping bag is an easy way to make a difference. One reusable bag can replace hundreds of plastic and paper bags over its lifetime.

Not convinced? Consider these three facts:

#1 Disposable shopping bags are not "free."

There are many hidden costs to disposable bags including resource consumption and litter clean-up. When retailers give away free bags, their costs are passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

#2 Plastic bags are difficult and expensive to recycle.

In California, less than 3% of plastic bags are recycled. It costs more to recycle a plastic bag than to produce a new one (due to sorting and deinking problems and the low quality of plastic used in bags). Bags get caught in conveyors and pulleys at recycling facilities, causing frequent shut downs.

*In Mountain View, plastic bags are **not accepted** in the residential or business recycling programs. Please drop off clean plastic bags at grocery stores.*

#3 Paper bags are not better for the environment than plastic bags.

They both have environmental impacts, including depleting natural resources and causing pollution. The production of paper bags generates 70% more air and 50 times more water pollution than plastic bags.

"Make it a Habit & Grab it" Tips

- Write "bring bags" as the first item on your shopping list or buy them at the store
- Put your coupons in your bag and keep it by the front door or hang on a doorknob
- Keep reusable bags in the trunk of your car and put a small note on the dashboard to remind you to bring them into the store
- Put your bags on the backseat, front seat, or in between the front seats
- Purchase a few compact reusable bags and keep them in a purse, jacket pocket, backpack or attach to your keychain
- Teach your kids to remind you